Caltrans

Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin

Volume 2/Issue No. 11 July 1, 1998

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

Pollution Discharges...

Paving operations have the potential for discharging pollutants to a storm drain system or watercourse. Proper implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) will ensure that the discharge of pollutants will be greatly reduced or eliminated.

Some of the activities associated with the construction of roadways with asphalt concrete (AC) are resurfacing with slurry and seal coats, sawcutting, grinding, and the removal of existing pavement sections.

Storm Drain Protection

Weather conditions should be considered when scheduling paving operations. Storm water runoff can cause pollution discharges that may result from AC pavement sawcutting and grinding. Prior to a storm event, all vacuuming and sweeping of slurry and grindings should be completed, to reduce or eliminate these potential discharges into storm drains (CD8).

The use of BMP's, such as sandbag dams for protection of drainage inlets and confinement of sediment, along with good housekeeping practices will keep the work area clean and free of potential contaminants, as demonstrated by this saw-cutting operation.

Use storm drain inlet protection (CD40) BMP's or completely cover inlets during paving activities that could cause solid and liquid material to be discharged into the inlets. Since it is quite common for existing and newly constructed drainage systems to be located adjacent to pavement sections, these BMP's are crucial to eliminate discharges.

Asphalt Concrete Paving Operations

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management

Reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials; minimize the over-application of, and the stockpiling of surplus materials such as cold mix; and maintain an adequate supply of cleanup materials (CD11). Also, it is important to designate proper storage and containment areas for supplies and materials (CD10).

Solid waste management (CD13) is also of prime importance in paving operations. The removal and disposal of surplus materials and demolition debris must be carried out in accordance with applicable permits and regulations. On-site, temporary storage of waste materials and debris must be located away from drainage inlets or watercourses, and have appropriate containment.

As a result of this paving machine having been parked and cleaned on the jobsite, waste AC and diesel fuel have contaminated the work area.

Vehicle and Equipment Concerns

A significant problem associated with paving operations is the amount of equipment needed for the work. Vehicle and equipment storage, maintenance, fueling, and cleaning BMP's must be implemented (CD's 18, 19, 20).

Equipment and vehicles should be stored offsite when not in use, and disposal of used fuels, oil, and lubricants must be performed correctly. Maintenance and fueling operations should also be performed offsite or in contained areas. Spill kits or other cleanup materials should be available to mitigate accidents that can result from these operations.

Cleaning of vehicles and equipment should be done in designated areas or off the site. The use of solvents or other harsh chemicals for cleaning should be minimized or eliminated.

In conclusion, it is very important that all construction management staff, contractor and subcontractor personnel be aware of the potential for storm water pollution during paving operations, and that the appropriate BMP's are implemented to ensure compliance. Please refer to the **Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook** for further details.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks. Questions or comments may be directed to:

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